

the OPTIMIST

Newsletter of the Sierra Club MINERAL KING TASK FORCE

ENVIRONMENT IMPACT STATEMENT SUBMITTED

On February 26, 1976, the final Environmental Impact Statement for Mineral King was presented to the President's Council on Environmental Quality. Copies are available on a first come, first served basis from Mr. Douglas Leisz, Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service, 630 Sansome St., San Francisco, Ca. 94111. The report is a 1 & 1/2 inch volume devoted to: goals and objectives of the proposed development, reasons for developing Mineral King, history of the proposal, future plans and the project's environmental impact.

Unfortunately, only 69 pages are devoted to the actual impact of the development on the Mineral King environment. Of further disappointment is the fact that, although a number of variations in the proposed development are discussed, there is little significant discussion of non-development alternatives. Also the report devotes only one page to unavoidable adverse environmental effects and one page to the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources.

Apparently the Disney plan for cog-assisted railway from Oak Grove to Mineral King, announced with much fanfare in 1972 has been dropped. The final EIS now calls for a new road from Hammond to Faculty Flat, with the final mile to Mineral King village by cog-assisted railway.

According to the preferred plan, campsites with their attendant service roads are to be located at Aspen, Crystal Basin, Mosquito Basin, Eagle Basin and Franklin. With the exception of Aspen, these areas are all about 3 miles from Mineral King village, and are labelled "walk-in camps." Thus it appears camping opportunities for all but back packers will be unavailable.

On some points the report is rather ambiguous, such as page 175 where we found, "However, the most common insect, the fir engraver (*Scolytus ventralis*), is not a primary killer of fir trees. The most common insect, the fir engraver (*Scolytus ventralis*), is a primary killer of fir trees." How's that, again? Enough said.

MINERAL KING & CONGRESS

Congressman John Krebs announced March 15 that he is opposed to the Disney-Forest Service plan for Mineral King and that within 30 he will sponsor a bill to add Mineral King to Sequoia National Park. Mr. Krebs said he wants to balance the recreational needs of Californians with environmental concerns. He has also said he will seek maximum public input to determine how the valley should be used once it becomes a part of the park. This is truly a courageous decision by John Krebs and he needs the encouragement of all of us who feel that Mineral King deserves the protection of Park status. Mr. Krebs is under a great deal of pressure, especially by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors and by the Visalia Times-Delta newspaper. Your letters are very important now. Give Congressman Krebs your support and your suggestions on Mineral King. And let the Tulare County Supervisors know your opinion, especially if you reside in their district. Send separate letters to each of them.

Robert E. Harrell
R.D. Baird
Donald M. Hillman
Fred Batkin
Raymond J. Muller

Board of Supervisors
Rm. 301, Court House
Visalia, Ca. 93277

WRITE CONGRESS

Now that Congressman Krebs has endorsed inclusion of Mineral King in the National Park System (Sequoia National Park), it is imperative that we renew our efforts in Congress. Be sure to write to Roy Taylor (Chairman, House Sub-Committee for Parks and Recreation) urging him to hold hearings on Mineral King as soon as possible.

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Of equal importance are letters to Senators Cranston and Tunney urging them to introduce Mineral King legislation in the Senate. They have been reluctant to do so in the past, however, now that the final EIS has been submitted and Congressman Krebs has endorsed National Park protection for Mineral King, they will likely be more inclined to introduce such legislation. Particularly important are letters to Senator Tunney who is up for re-election this year.

The Honorable (your congressman)
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable (your senator)
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510



ome things from Sally

Hi ya. I dropped in on Johnnie Leasure and Bobbie Harrell last week and they were really down in the dumps about Congressman Krebs' plan to sponsor a Mineral King bill. I tried to cheer them up but when I left they were both crying. Poor dears. Well, darlings, spring is busting out all over and I plan to travel to my favorite valley next week end and enjoy the redbuds and manzanita blossoms. Maybe I'll see ya there.

Love, Sal

T-Shirts, Patches, & sundries

Need a new T-shirt for spring? You can still order one, also a patch and bumper strip. Just fill out the order blank below and send it to Jean Koch. And don't forget to reserve the film for your group. Write Bruton Peterson for reservations.

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- ☐ Please send me the following Mineral King T-shirt(s).
Adult sizes \$4.50/shirt (quant.) ☐ XL (46-48) ☐ L (42-44)
plus 6% Calif. sales tax ☐ M (38-40) ☐ S (34-36)
and 40¢ postage.
- ☐ Please send me Children sizes ☐ size 10 ☐ size 12 ☐ size 14
\$3.50/shirt plus tax and ☐ size 16 ☐ size 18
postage.
- ☐ Please send me (quant.) ☐ Mineral King patches at \$1.00/patch. Don't forget
6% sales tax and 10¢ postage.
- ☐ Please send me (quant.) ☐ Mineral King bumper strips at 15¢ each. This includes
tax and postage.
- ☐ I would like to be on the Mineral King Speakers Bureau.
- ☐ Enclosed is my contribution for support of efforts to protect Mineral King.

Mr.
Mrs.
Miss
Ms.

Name

Address